

MERLION STAR

Serving the Sembawang Community

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Issue 14

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SINGAPORE (July 6, 2010) - Commodore, Task Force 73.1, Capt. Richard Clemmons speaks to Singaporean media following the opening ceremony for Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Singapore 2010. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class David A. Brandenburg

At-sea Interoperability is Focus of CARAT Singapore

CHANGI, Singapore – Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT)

Singapore 2010 kicked off with an opening ceremony held at the Fleet Auditorium at Changi Naval Base, July 6.

U.S. Sailors and Coast Guardsmen took part in the opening ceremony, with the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) hosting the event. This is the 16th year that the U.S. military and Singapore have worked together in the bilateral

exercise, which has the longest at-sea phase of the CARAT exercise series.

“The U.S. and Singapore enjoy a very warm and special relationship that goes back a long way,” said RSN Fleet Commander, Rear Adm. Joseph Leong. “Through the use of combat procedures and communication systems, our men and women have achieved a certain level of interoperability and confidence working with one another.”

Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific and Task Force 73,

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Quote of the Week

"All the art of living lies in a fine mingling of letting go and holding on."

-- Henry Ellis

Merlion Star

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C. Barry Marushi

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Master Sgt. Anthony Garcia, Marine Corps Logistics Liaison



Sembawang, Singapore (June 29, 2010) – Master Sgt. Anthony Garcia, the Marine Corps Logistics Liaison at Commander Logistics Group Western Pacific, works to ensure the logistics needs of forward deployed Marines are being met. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (AW) Eric J. Cutright

SEMBAWANG, Singapore – Master Sgt. Anthony Garcia is the Marine Corps Logistics Liaison between Commander Logistics and Marine Activities through the Pacific Region. Garcia reported here after serving as the Aviation Ordnance Chief at his prior command, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

Serving as the Marine Corps Liaison, Garcia's job requires that he understand what the Marines' needs are and that those needs are being met.

"I have typically been the end user," said Garcia. "At my last command I would take the weapons and put them on the aircraft to take out the enemy, whereas here, I get a bigger picture of what it takes to get weapons to that end user out in the fight."

Working in an office setting here at COMLOG West Pac, Garcia explains the effort it takes to make his job run smoothly.

"It takes a whole lot of coordination and a lot of communication to make a staff this size perform at such a high level. The scope of the mission here just requires a lot of teamwork," said Garcia.

Scheduled to depart in November, Garcia still finds himself proud of the work being done by the departments and individuals at the command.

"Being here has opened my eyes as to what the command does collectively and seeing what each individual here does, especially in Logistics, has impressed me tremendously, because that individual has such a wide range of responsibility on a day-to-day basis."

Pacific Partnership 2010 Departs Cambodia

SIHANOUKVILLE, Cambodia (NNS) -- Pacific Partnership 2010 departed Cambodia June 28 after 12 days of working alongside the people of Cambodia to deliver a variety of humanitarian and civic assistance programs ashore and aboard USNS Mercy (T-AH 19).

By: MC 2 BRIAN GAINES
PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"The time has flown by quickly and we should all take great pride in everything we have accomplished together in such a short time," said Pacific Partnership 2010 Mission Commander, Capt. Lisa M. Franchetti. "We have enjoyed a warm and friendly welcome from the Cambodian people, and will long remember the friendships we have made and the inspiring times we have shared during our visit."

Medical staff, Seabees, nongovernmental organizations, partner nations, and other U.S. government organization personnel not only provided their respective specialties in Sihanoukville, but extended these endeavors into distant regions such as Kampong Cham, Kampong Speu, Kampot, Kandal, Ratanakiri, and Takeo provinces.

In remote areas such as Ratanakiri, more than 300 miles away from Sihanoukville, medical personnel treated more than 700 patients per day for a variety of medical conditions including such diseases as cholera, chronic skin infections, respiratory infections, and malnutrition.

"The crew we had in these areas exceeded my expectations," said Lt. Cmdr. (Dr.) Sandy Kimmer, officer in charge for the remote medical civic action program (MEDCAP) sites her team visited. "The crew included NGO, partner nation, U.S. Public Health Service, and joint service personnel. Even some of the contracted interpreters were physicians, and that was a huge asset."

Because of the importance of

delivering medical care to such a remote location, Cambodian media braved the rugged terrain to Ratanakiri, located near the borders of Vietnam and Laos, to document the work being

Kampot, and Sihanouk provinces. In total, more than 29,000 patients received care at these sites.

Aboard Mercy, medical personnel treated 536 patients and performed 286



SIHANOUKVILLE, Cambodia (June 20, 2010) Aerographer's Mate 3rd Class Brooke Belvins, embarked aboard the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), blows bubbles with Cambodian children during a Pacific Partnership 2010 community service event at the Enfants du Cambodge orphanage in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jon Husman

done and to spread the word.

"Cambodian television, radio, and newspapers were beneficial in getting the word out," said Kimmer. "A group from the Cambodian Public Health Service was even on-hand to educate the local population about diseases

surgeries. Even a mother who brought her young son in for corrective urinary tract surgery benefited from an unexpected opportunity for cataract surgery.

"As the boy was being prepped for surgery, we noticed the mother feeling her way around the ship," said Australian Navy Lt. (Dr.) Elizabeth Livingstone, an ophthalmologist currently attached to Mercy.

"So we decided surgery would benefit the mother and out of both eyes treated, her best eye now has 20/30 vision."

Various engineering civic action programs (ENCAP) throughout these regions provided a variety of projects including three water wells and two water towers, as well as various renovations to schools and children's centers. Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11 and Amphibious Construction Battalion 1, along with Australian Defense Force



such as malaria and bird flu through skits and other means."

MEDCAP sites were also located in Kampong Cham, Kampong Speu,

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CARAT kicks off in Singapore

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SINGAPORE (July 6, 2010) - Destroyer Squadron 31 Chaplain, Lt. Mark Hughes, speaks with a woman before she returns to her room during a community service project visit to the Bright Vision Hospital as part of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Singapore 2010. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class David A. Brandenburg

Rear Adm. Nora Tyson, remarked how real-world events have shaped ties between the U.S. and Singapore Navies, and how CARAT has fostered that relationship.

"During CARAT last year, I talked about the changing environment in which we operate," said Tyson. "We talked about those threats. Piracy, particularly in the Western Indian Ocean, but also nearby in the South China Sea, remains a serious threat

to shipping and free trade, not to mention our mariners themselves.

"The shuffling scenarios and warfare area focus is proof that CARAT is adaptable and flexible, and can meet these emerging threats. Put another way, CARAT's size belies its importance. It is a key exercise and is the primary mechanism our countries use to translate our shared maritime concerns into action," Tyson added.

Participants for CARAT Singapore 2010 include USS Princeton (CG 59), USS Jacksonville (SSN 699), USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), USCGC Mellon (WHEC 717) and USNS Amelia Earhart (T-AKE 6).

Operations being conducted for CARAT Singapore include several ashore events such as medical, logistics and aviation symposia, community service projects, ship boarding and law enforcement exchanges, and more. At-sea events include joint helicopter operations, air and surface gunnery exercises, missile firings, anti-submarine warfare events, and tactical freeplay events.

CARAT is a series of bilateral exercises held annually in Southeast Asia to strengthen relationships and to enhance force readiness. CARAT 2010 features all six original partner nations, including Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, as well as two new participants; Cambodia and Bangladesh. The total number of forces scheduled to participate in the exercise include approximately 17,600 personnel, 50 aircraft and 73 ships.



SINGAPORE (July 6, 2010) - U.S. Navy Sailors applaud an elderly woman as she completes a therapeutic puzzle during a community service project visit to the Bright Vision Hospital as part of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Singapore 2010. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class David A. Brandenburg

Pacific Partnership 2010

Army engineers from the 2nd Combat Engineering Regiment, and Royal Cambodian Armed Forces engineers provided about 22,000 man-hours to these projects. The final well-drilling project is expected to complete on July 6.

Community service (COMSERV) program volunteers completed 11 different engagements at children's schools and orphanages accounting for more than 1,700 total volunteer hours.

"One of the common statements I hear from our volunteers after completing a COMSERV project is how much fun they had at the event. The impact of these projects are felt by not only those

monks, and a crowd of approximately 60 people gathered on the pier to watch the return of the relics. The artifacts included several Buddhist sculptures from the Angkor period, which spanned from 802 until 1431 A.D.

"As a Cambodian, I was very happy to learn of the return of these artifacts. On behalf of the Cambodian people, I would like to thank the U.S. government for their commitment to the Cambodian people," said Cambodian Ministry of Culture Director Khim Sarith.

The Japan Maritime Self Defense Force ship JDS Kunisaki (LST 4003) and her embarked medical team and NGOs also joined Mercy during her visit to Cambodia and provided medical



SIHANOUKVILLE, Cambodia (June 20, 2010) Lt. Derrick Horne, a Navy chaplain embarked aboard the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), finger-paints with Cambodian children during a Pacific Partnership 2010 community service event at the Enfants du Cambodge orphanage in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jon Husman

we are visiting or helping, but also by the volunteers," said Lt. Derrick Horne, a chaplain aboard Mercy. "When you can get volunteers of all different backgrounds, experiences, and occupations to stand in a circle with 20 children at a local shelter and do the 'Hokie Pokie,' you know the rewards must be great!"

To coincide with the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cambodia, Mercy was instrumental in repatriating ancient Khmer artifacts to their ancestral homeland. Sihanoukville Governor Ssong Sarath, five Buddhist

personnel and supported MEDCAPs at the Sihanouk Provincial Hospital and the Andaung Thma elementary school, where on average, more than 800 locals were treated daily during their 10-day participation.

This marks the first time Pacific Partnership has visited Cambodia.

Pacific Partnership 2010 is the fifth in a series of annual U.S. Pacific Fleet humanitarian and civic assistance endeavors aimed at strengthening regional partnerships among U.S. government organizations, partner nations, and international humanitarian and relief organizations.

Don't Let a Backyard BBQ Ruin Your Summer!

Summer is prime season for backyard barbeques. Warm weather, good friends, and grilled meat combine to form a perfect afternoon for many Sailors, Marines and their families. Unfortunately, every year casual afternoons are ruined by fires resulting from improper use of barbeque grills.

A third class petty officer found this out the hard way when he was preparing to cook on a propane grill. He tried to use the button that provides a spark to light the grill, but it didn't work. He kept trying for about 30 seconds, which allowed 30 seconds worth of gas to flow. When he pulled out his cigarette lighter, he ignited the gas and ended up with burns to his hand and four days of light duty. The Naval Safety Center sees reports of similar mishaps each summer.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission says there are routine checks that can easily be performed on gas grills and significantly reduce the risk of a fire. Check the tubes that lead into the burner for blockage; check hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, or leaks. Use the grill at least 10 feet away from your house or any building. Don't use it in a garage, breezeway, carport, or under any surface that could catch fire.

While charcoal grills cause less fires annually than gas grills, the biggest safety concern is lighter fluid – or the various substitutes Sailors and Marines often use to try and light the grill. Only use lighter fluid that is meant for charcoal, never gasoline, kerosene or other volatile fluids, and, never add lighter fluid to coals that are already warm.

No matter what type of grill is used, the most important thing is to keep an eye on it. Never leave it unattended and watch out for children. Ultimately, common sense is the secret ingredient that will keep cookouts from leaving a bad taste in your mouth.

Independence Day 2010



Navy Exchange Awards



(Top) Navy Exchange Service Team



(L) Congratulations to Don Gilpaua on receiving Employee of the Quarter, 1st Quarter 2010



(R) Congratulations to Ashur Kadar on receiving Employee of the Year for 2009